

WORKING FOR THE TROLLEY.
AN EVIDENT ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE IT IN WASHINGTON.

POWER HOUSES BUILT BY A COMPANY WHICH PRETENDS TO BE EXPERIMENTING WITH THE STORAGE BATTERY SYSTEM.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, July 29.—There are strong indications that a concerted and desperate attempt will be made at the coming session of Congress to obtain the passage of an act to permit street railway companies in Washington to use overhead electric wires—in fact,

the trolley system. In 1890 Congress passed an act requiring the two principal street railroad companies to introduce some other motive power than horses within two years on penalty of forfeiture of their charters. One of the companies complied with the law. The other one did not, but went before Congress, and on the plea that it had expended large sums in an effort to equip its cars with electric motors or storage batteries obtained an extension of one year. Since then it is understood a street railroad syndicate which is powerful in New York, Philadelphia and other cities has bought or secured options on several other street railroads and franchises in Washington with a view to the introduction of the trolley system, and it is now asserted—and the assertion is backed by a considerable amount of circumstantial evidence—that the street railroad company which has failed to comply with the law is in a "deal" to bring about legislation to effect that object. The extension of time granted to that company expired on Saturday, and it has neither complied with the law nor, so far as its patrons have observed, has it in good faith attempted to do it. A few cars propelled by storage batteries have been sent over the road at irregular intervals, sandwiched between cars drawn by horses, and a good deal of money is said to have been expended in the purchase of real estate and the building of "power houses." As to these expenditures and their ultimate object "The Evening Star" says:

"Some practical men of affairs are inclined to make light of the scientific work that has been carried on by this company, and are even so severe as to say that it has nothing to do with railroad business. However, there is a ray of light on the situation, even from a business standpoint, for it is said the company has not been carried away with the inventor's zeal and enthusiasm to such an extent as to waste or even spend the money of the company. It is true that the company has in the past two years placed on the market and sold some \$400,000 worth of bonds. This money, however, has not been spent in fancy salaries to scientific experts or in motors. The bulk of it has been invested in substantial real estate and in buildings to improve the same. An entire square was purchased in South Washington, and a great power house has been erected there. Another power house has been built on the company's land in West Washington."

"These buildings and the machinery in them can be used, even in the event that the scientific calculations of the company come to naught and the storage battery should prove a failure. In the contingency such a bitter disappointment should come there will be consolidation in the thought that only about 6 or 6 per cent of the total issue of bonds has been lost in experiments, while all the remainder of the proceeds of the bond issue is represented in well-equipped buildings. It may seem to be little singular to those unfamiliar with the designs of the trolley people, that while the company has been apparently engrossed, heart and soul, in making the storage car a success, their new plant will be admirably adapted for the trolley system. This fact may be incidentally called to the attention of Congress, but not, of course, by the officials of the company, for the reason that they may take the position that they are anxious to go ahead and prove that the storage car is a success. If members of Congress should question this position, then the officials of the road will ask: 'Well, what are you going to do about it? The cable can't be used because the curves in our road are too numerous. The underground electric road has been demonstrated not to be a practical system, and so what is there left except the trolley if you don't let us go on and equip the road?'"

"Amongst trolley men this is regarded as a strong position, and they conclude that Congress, whether it wants to or not, will be thrown into the arms of the trolley people. The roads will grant the use of the road to those who can do the best job, and to the change, as it will cost practically nothing to equip the road with the trolley."

"Without regard to the objections against the introduction of trolley lines, as an experiment of the magnificence streets and avenues of the National Capital where no plan of reciprocity can be offered in its favor, there are special objections why overhead wires should not be allowed in some of the streets traversed by the road. The road is comparatively narrow, and facing which stands a majority of the higher buildings. It is a street in which a very large portion of the business of the town is transacted—possibly, the largest in any other street in Washington, and where trolley lines would be a constant menace to life and property. These objections alone should be sufficient to prevent Congress from permitting the "deal" which seems to be in contemplation."

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Washington, July 29.—The number of fourth-class postmasters appointed to-day was ninety-seven, of whom forty-five were to fill vacancies caused by resignations and death.

FOR A FRUIT SHOW IN RUSSIA.

Washington, July 29.—The Department of State has been officially advised that the Society of Fruit Culture of Russia will hold an international exhibition and congress of fruit culture at St. Peters-

burg in the fall of 1894, and that the Russian Government will favor the amplest display of foreign exhibits.

NO SALARY UNTIL THE SENATE MEETS.

THE FIRST CONTROLLER UNearths A LAW FOR MR. ROBINSON'S BENEFIT.

Washington, July 29 (Special).—A peculiar condition of things has just been disclosed which illustrates the absolute jurisdiction of the First Controller of the Treasury. Under the law the term of Solicitor of the Treasury Hepburn expired on March 4, 1893, as upon that day his term of service as a member of Congress from Iowa began.

To fill the vacancy caused by this condition the President promoted Assistant Solicitor Reeve to be Solicitor. No appointment was made at the time to fill the office of Assistant Solicitor. On June 8 N. T. N. Robinson, of New Orleans, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Colonel Reeve. Everything went well for a week, and on June 15 Mr. Robinson walked across to the Department of Justice and received statements of this sort have emanated from the Pension Bureau during the last three months with a frequency calculated to arrest public attention, if not to startle the country, and they ought to do so, if the assertions made are even measurably correct. In this particular case, it may be wise to await the results of the investigation and compare them with the official statements made before the investigation is fully under way, especially as the whole number of pensioners living in New Mexico on June 10, 1892, about a year ago (and twenty-seven years after the war) was exactly 918, according to the official statement of the Pension Bureau.

"No money shall be paid from the Treasury as salary to any person appointed during the recess of the Senate to fill a vacancy in any existing office if the vacancy existed while the Senate was in session and was by law required to be filled by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, until such appointment has been confirmed by the Senate."

Under the decision of the First Controller Mr. Robinson has not drawn any money since the law was unascertained. When the disbursing officer of the Department of Justice learned of the action of the First Controller in ordering the discontinuance of the payment of salary to the assistant solicitor he became very anxious as to the fate of his \$5. He paid a visit to Mr. Robinson and asked him to refund the \$5.

"Oh, no," replied the gentleman from New Orleans, with a bland smile; "not much."

Meanwhile the assistant solicitor had been living in anticipation of the payment of his salary. He is sure to be paid when the Senate meets, but, as he expresses it, a man may starve to death in that future in doubt. It is simply impossible to say what extent of injury the corn crop has sustained. In Central Illinois there is an area of fifty miles square where there has been practically no rain for two months. The ground is parched and corn is in bad condition.

Iowa reports that corn now is as far advanced as in an average season at this time. The prospects provided rain comes soon, are good for a full crop, as compared with last year. A few movement of old and corn during August and September is looked for and to a certain extent men holding cribbed corn will let it go. Farmers are absorbing a great amount of corn in the country which will reduce shipments materially. Oats are reported generally as fairly filled and most has prematurely ripened them. Nebraska reports

that the country has gone through trying weather during the week just closed. At this stage of the growing season and with everything in the future in doubt it is simply impossible to say what extent of injury the corn crop has sustained.

It is thought at the Treasury Department that the law referred to was enacted especially to apply to some appointments of President Lincoln who did not meet with the approval of the Senate.

THOSE "SECRETED" PENSION DECISIONS.

EMPHATIC CONTRADICTIONS FROM GENERAL BUSSEY AND EX-COMMISSIONER TANNER.

Washington, July 29.—Ex-Assistant Secretary Bussey, of the Interior Department, and ex-Commissioner Tanner give a positive and circumstantial contradiction to Deputy Commissioner Bell's statement to the effect that sixteen employees of the Pension Bureau whose pensions were illegally increased in 1888 by Commissioner Tanner were still drawing their pensions at the increased rate in contempt of specific instructions given by Mr. Bussey that the old and lower rating should be restored, and also to the further statement that these orders of the Assistant Secretary had been secreted, and were only recently discovered by Commissioner Tanner.

An examination of the alleged decisions discloses the fact that only four of them bear any specific date. Five are dated "August, 1888," the others having no date whatever. All the cases except two are signed by Assistant Secretary Bussey, one of these having no signature and the other his name in typewriting. When the attention of ex-Commissioner Tanner was called to the matter he stated emphatically that he had never seen the alleged decisions, although he remained in office until September 12, 1888, nor had he ever heard of them until to-day.

Ex-Assistant Secretary Bussey, who was seen at his office, said that no such decisions as those referred to and quoted had ever been promulgated from his office. During the Tanner investigation he had, on his own motion, taken up a number of cases of pension employees who he believed had been illegally rated, and wrote out a decision in each case. They were formulated with a view to their being shown to President Harrison and Secretary Noble as aids in their investigation and understanding of the cases, and also to their subsequent official promulgation if they met with their approval. They did not meet with the approval of the Secretary, who decided upon another course of procedure, as indicated in his letter to Congress on the subject. The cases as written up were signed by Mr. Bussey simply, he said, to identify them to the President and Secretary Noble. After it had been decided not to issue the decisions as prepared, General Bussey says, he put them in his desk, where they remained for many months. On one occasion he showed them to Commissioner Baum, who asked permission to take a number of them from his office and look them over at his leisure. This permission was granted, and about twenty out of fifty or sixty of the decisions were taken away. General Baum had no doubt forgotten to return them, and so the "secreted" decisions" were discovered, and the conclusion instantly reached that large sums of money had been paid out contrary to the instructions contained therein.

General Bussey says with earnestness that the alleged decisions were not decisions, nor were they

ever copied and promulgated as such, as was well understood by General Baum and the chief officials of the Pension Bureau.

IS THIS ANOTHER MARE'S NEST?

WHERE DID THOSE 2,000 NEW-MEXICAN PENSION CASES, SAID TO BE FRAUDULENT.

COME FROM.

Washington, July 29 (Special).—It is announced by official of the Pension Bureau that a large number of special examiners have been detailed to investigate the cases of pensioners living in the Territory of New Mexico, where it is asserted "enormous fraud have been perpetrated," there being nearly 2,000 cases to be investigated.

A MAJOR CUTTING in active operations, with constant and increasing demand, wants \$50 weekly and half interest; highest references. MALONE, Word Building.

ATTENTION.—Mineral waters, ham, bacon, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, dried fruits, fixtures, machinery and plant of established mineral water business, paying \$100,000 per year. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

A MAJOR CUTTING in active operations, with constant and increasing demand, wants \$15,000 with or without additional services to \$25,000 with or without additional services. E. L. LEITCH, Tribune Office, 125 Broadway, Room 42.

A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.—Working partner wanted with \$350,000 in plant, factory, stock, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc., for a major cutting. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

ATTENTION.—GOAL MERCHANTS.—Est. \$100,000 will buy Newark, N. J., property and business of 20 years established, with \$100,000 with or without additional services. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

ATTENTION.—BAKERS.—Hamburg, \$2,750 will buy Oregon, N. J., business and fixtures, machinery, tools, etc., for a major cutting. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

ATTENTION.—ICE-CREAM MANUFACTURERS.—\$2,500 will buy 2 years old business, with \$100,000 with or without additional services. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL required for business purposes; investors advised with regard to choice of desirable opportunities; high-grade properties. KIRKWOOD & CAGLE, Tribune Office, 125 Broadway, Room 42.

BARGAIN OFFERED in existing newspaper and printing plant; best city, private label, stock, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc., for a major cutting. HODGES, 175 Broadway, Room 42.

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